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**EXPRESS MAIL No.: EL 953901385 US**  
**Docket Number: 41792**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of

Norman G. ANDERSON

Serial No.: 09/915,291

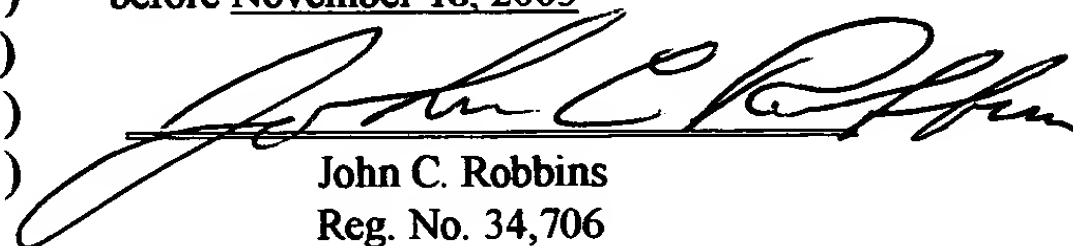
Filed: July 27, 2001

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR  
UNLOADING DENSITY GRADIENTS

) Examiner: David L. SORKIN

) Group Art Unit: 1723

) I hereby certify that this paper is being sent via  
) EXPRESS MAIL and I have reasonable basis to  
) expect that this paper will be mailed on or  
) before November 18, 2003

)   
) John C. Robbins  
) Reg. No. 34,706

**RESPONSE TO FIRST OFFICE ACTION**  
**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.111**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed October 28, 2003, Applicant hereby amends the application as set forth below.

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the Listing Of Claims, which begins on page 3 of this paper.

**Amendment to the Drawings** begin on page 5 of this paper and include both an attached replacement sheet and an annotated sheet showing changes.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 6 of this paper.

An **Appendix** including amended drawing figures is attached following page 6 of this paper.